



## **Hurricane Katrina: An Experience**

Dr. Marty Ewing

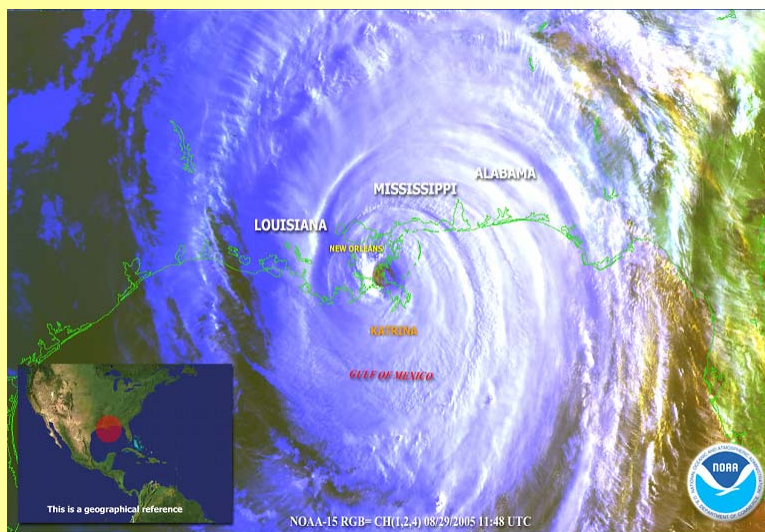
Quality Assurance/Technical Services

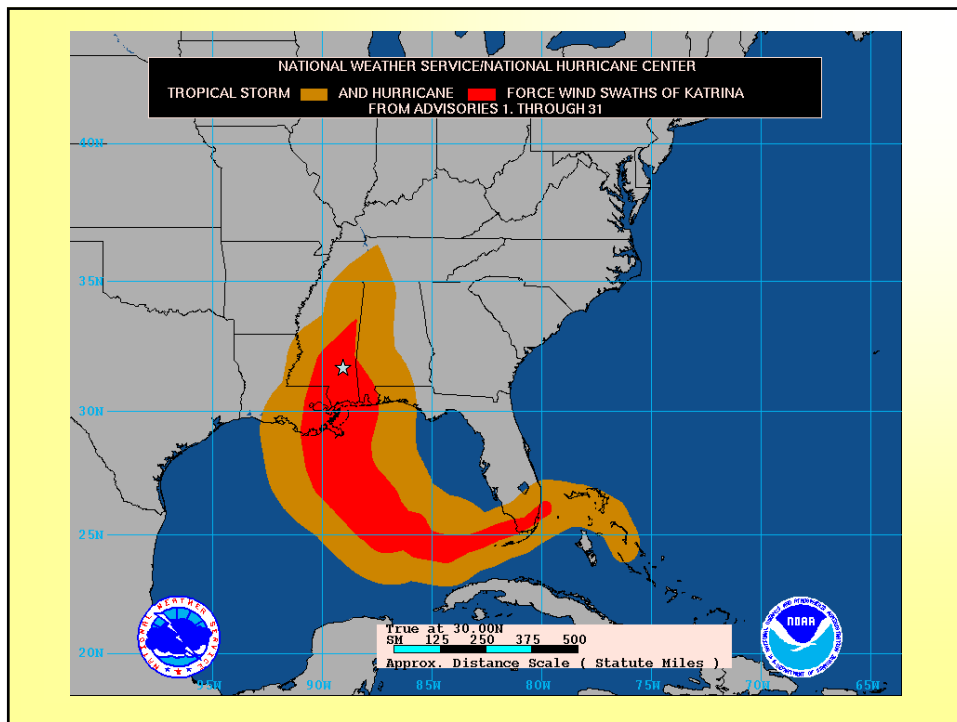
### **Sanderson Facilities**

- **Four Processing Plants in South Miss and One in South Louisiana**
- **Four Hatcheries - All in South MS**
- **Three Feed Mills - In South MS**
- **~Six Hundred Contract Poultry Houses**
- **Slaughter approximately 4 million/week**

## Standard Hurricane Preparations

- Fill all fuel tanks – Gas and Diesel
- Check ALL Generators: Hatcheries, Plants, and Poultry Houses
- Deliver Feed in Advance
- Pick up Hatching eggs
- Communicate with growers: Feed, Fuel, Drainage
- Plant Closures: Decision within 24 hours – Notify District Office





## After Katrina

- No Electric Power South of I-20
- No Phone Service/Communications
- No Water in most areas
- No Gas or Diesel fuel
- Curfews ordered in most localities
- Extent of devastation: South AL, MS, LA  
90,000+ Miles

## The Gulfcoast



## Blocked Roads



Incredible Damage



Damage in Laurel, MS





## Downed Power Lines - Everywhere



## The Good News

- **No Loss of Life to any Sanderson Farms Employees, Growers, or Contractors**
- **No Major Damage to Company Facilities – Feed Mills, Hatcheries, or Processing Plants**

## **The Bad News**

- **71 poultry houses - total loss**
- **90 more houses - substantial damage**
- **Virtually every farm in Mississippi sustained some damage**
- **If houses were partially damaged but birds were still contained, birds were moved to other houses or other farms**
- **Injured and unconfined birds euthanized**







## **BIRD LOSSES**

- **Lost 3 million birds outright**
- **Lost additional 5 million birds due to reduced placements and egg sets**

## **HOUSING/MANAGEMENT**

- **Many houses not able to tunnel ventilate - Curtain, roof, or wall damage**
- **Some heat losses in older birds - Not acclimated to heat**
- **Fed a single ration and could not pelletize**
- **Birds feed twice/day until mid-September, slowly put back on full feed**

## **Processing Plants**

- **Concerns about flood or water damage**
- **Power Outages: Potential temperature abuse – Disposed of 4.7 millions lbs. of product in coolers and cold storage.**
- **Re-open Plants: Assure Water Potability**  
**McComb and Hammond Sat. 9/3/05**  
**Collins and Hazlehurst Sun 9/4/03**  
**Laurel Wed. 9/7/05**

## **Employee attendance low (<50% or worse)**

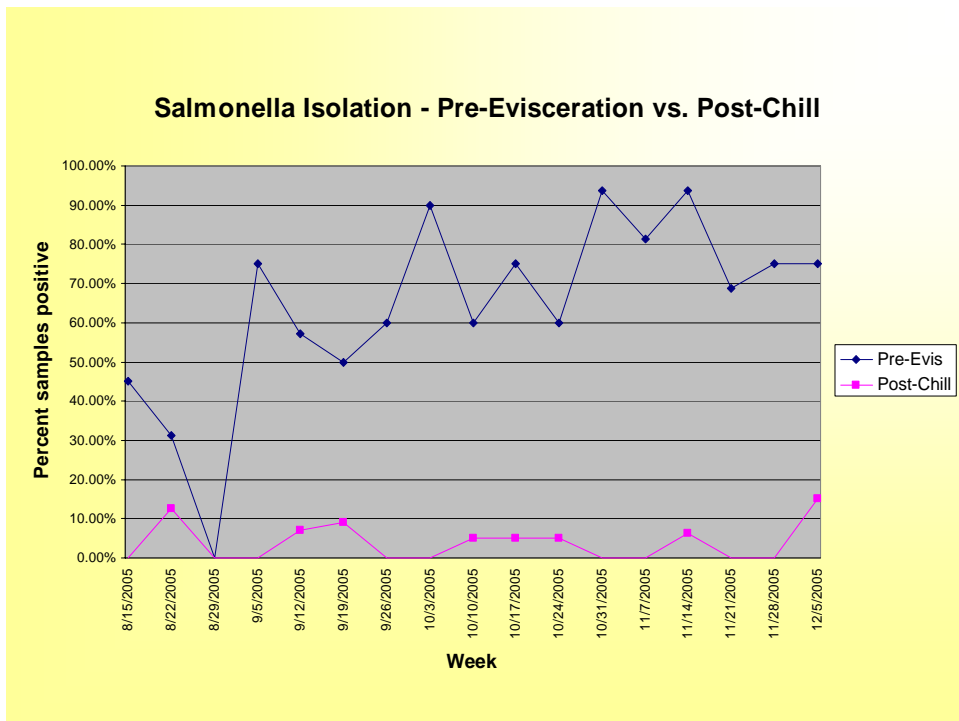
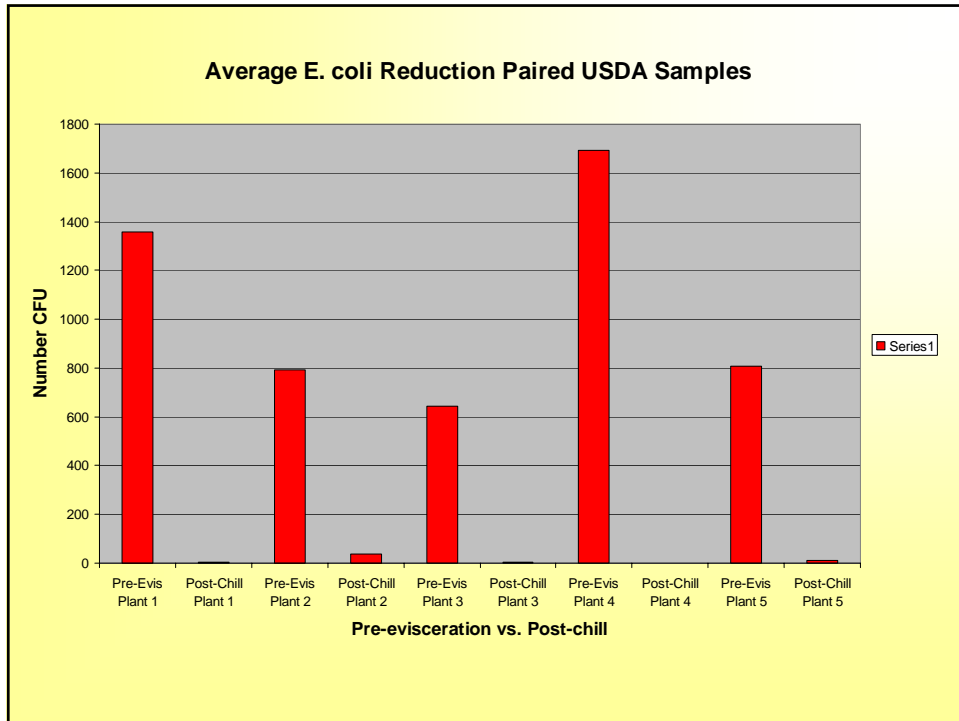
- **Meals provided**
- **Free ice**
- **Sanderson HR personnel trained to file FEMA and Red Cross claims**
- **Provided fuel – Employees and Growers**
- **Industries in region continue to suffer from reduced labor force**

## **Bird Condition**

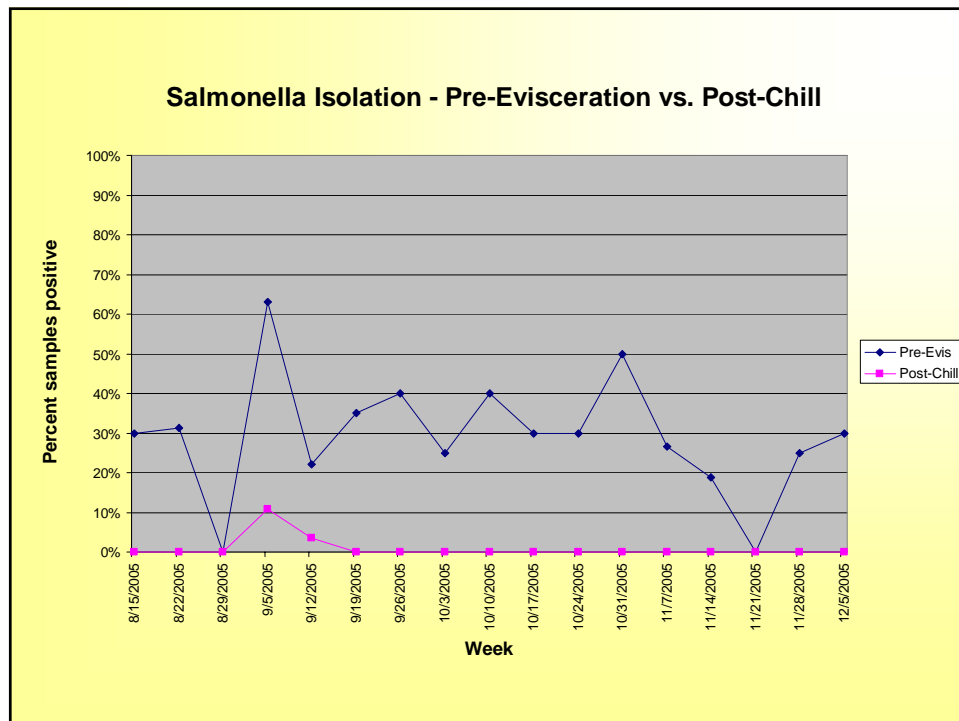
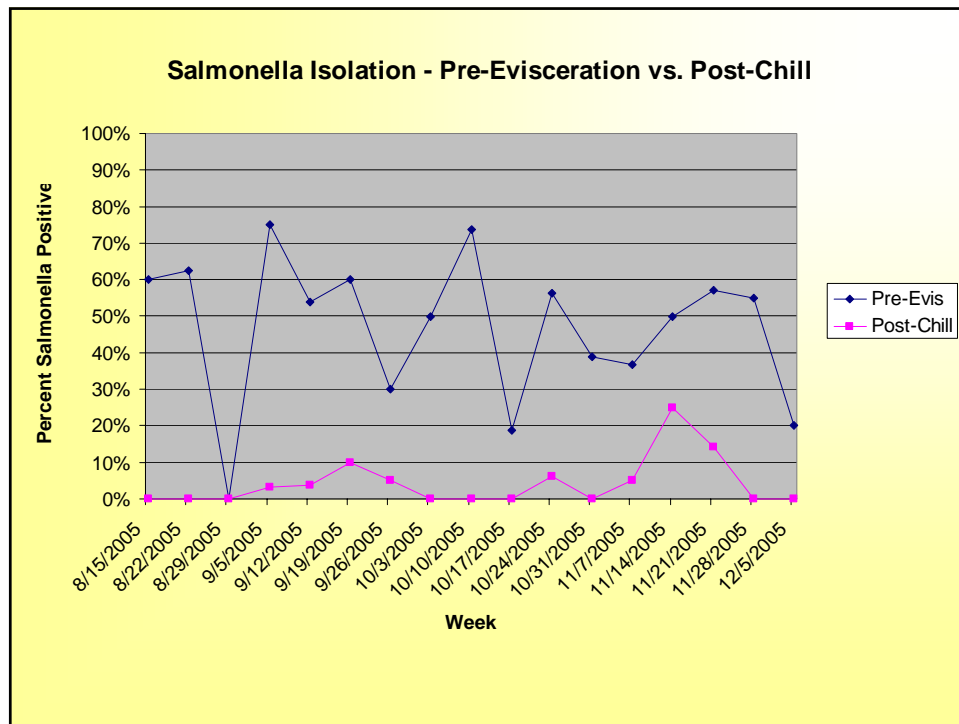
- **Slaughter age from low 40's to 70+ days**
- **Increase variability – multiple ages flocks**
- **Overall increase in condemnation & trim**
- **Slight ↑ Inflammatory process**
- **Slight ↑ in Zero Tolerance deviations - flock related.**

## **Salmonella**

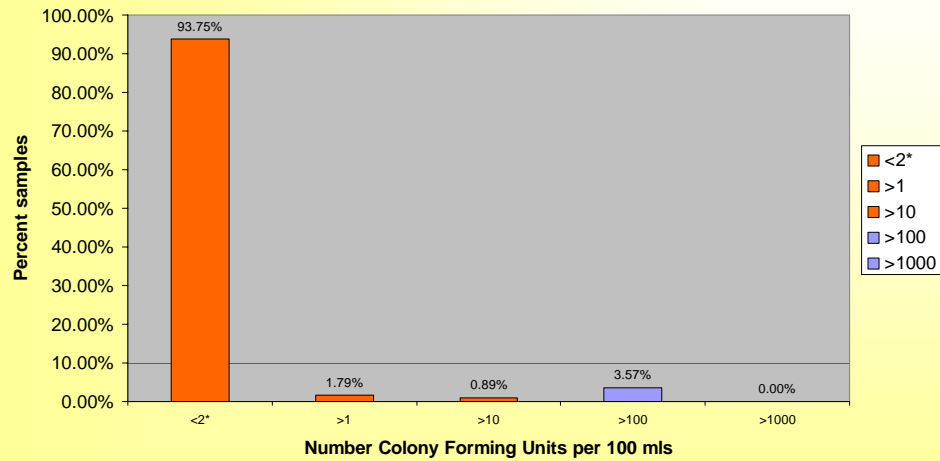
- **Concerned about maintaining Salmonella Performance Standard**
- **USDA started fifty-one day windows in all plants in region – All met the Performance Standard**
- **Special FSIS team sent to survey plants – Results to be published**
- **Paired samples from FSIS study:  
No Salmonella positive post-chill**







**Most Probable Number (MPN) of Salmonella at Post-Chill  
(total 112 samples)**



VIDAS AOAC 996.08- 9 Tube MPN



Thank you for your attention!